

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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### **HINCHEY SAYS EPA SHOULD REJECT GE'S "GOOD FAITH OFFER"**

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today said General Electric is continuing its efforts to elude responsibility for the pollution of the Hudson River. Hinchey called on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reject GE's "good faith" proposal for the Hudson Superfund site.

"This proposal by GE is not a good faith offer at all," said Hinchey. "GE continues to deviate from the law and seems to believe it's above the law. EPA should not let them get away with this arrogant and dishonest behavior."

In February, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a Record of Decision (ROD) that calls for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) dumped by GE over a period of thirty years to be removed from the Hudson and requires GE to pay for the cleanup. A Special Notice Letter was sent to GE giving the company until April 9 to submit an offer to finance or conduct the remediation or face severe fines. GE submitted its offer on Tuesday, but Hinchey says it still has not met the requirements of the law.

"GE's Good Faith Offer was supposed to include an 'unambiguous' statement of its willingness to take care of the cleanup consistent with the ROD," Hinchey added. "Their letter is nothing if not ambiguous. The company only commits to conducting the remedial design phase and fails to make any commitment for the cleanup itself, leaving that phase to future negotiation. GE does not agree to reimburse the \$37 million it owes for past costs, instead placing unusual conditions on payment.

"The way this is supposed to work is that the Good Faith Offer leads to negotiation of a consent decree. GE is placing conditions on the negotiations and trying to rehash battles they've already lost. The company is making its cooperation contingent on EPA's acceptance of its terms. These terms and conditions are highly unusual and inappropriate at this point in the process. Indeed, they represent another attempt by GE to evade the law and elude responsibility. It's time for GE to stop stalling, respect the law and move forward with the cleanup."